

TURNER TO CUT CIA UNDERCOVER FORCE BY 15%

WASHINGTON (UPI)—CIA Director Stansfield Turner plans to remove 800 operatives from the agency's worldwide covert and clandestine branch in the most sweeping reorganization of the unit since the CIA was founded, a spokesman said Tuesday.

The drastic cuts in the CIA's Directorate of Operations, or clandestine services branch, will take place over the next 26 months, the spokesman said, and be carried out by normal attrition, retirements and some dismissals.

The reductions would cut the overall strength of the directorate by almost 15% from its reported total force of about 6,000.

Turner reportedly said the action was a necessary trimming of the directorate which became swollen during the Vietnam war and never returned to peacetime levels.